

## Nature is a textbook teaching the ideal of love

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April 16, 1988

Cheon Seong Gyeong, Book 3 True Love, Chapter 2, Section 9.2



*Photo date and location unknown*

What is nature? It is an exhibit that God has given us as a gift, something He prepared for the birth of His beloved sons and daughters. Even the song of a bird and a stem of grass growing are decorations prepared to bring beauty into the lives of His beloved sons and daughters. Even the rocks rolling on the road were created as decorations for a nation, as God knew that His sons and daughters would be the owners who would rule over that nation. It is the same with flowing water. God did not want things to be dry and monotonous, so He created so as to establish a "prince" of dreams and of hope who could look at this infinitely colorful and harmonious garden – this world of love – and inherit it. Hence, we learn from all things of creation. When the male and female birds sing, the lady who owns them should learn from them. You should be able to sing praises for the beauty of the original world of creation, where everything devotes its entire life living for the sake of the other. Then, even young birds will want to come and live in your home and have their young there. Do you understand what I am saying? (175-186, 1988.4.16)

No matter how precious a work of art in a museum may be, can it have more value than a living work of art? I am asking who has loved this earth, the museum of all things and the work of God, more than God has. I am asking if anyone has loved it more than the museums in his own country. Can you compare a gold crown from the Shilla Dynasty in a museum with a dandelion lying on the road, which has been made directly by God? If there is a king, who understands God's heart and who takes care of the creation with such a heart that says to the creation "I feel sorry and shameful because I cannot love you from the position of an unfallen king whom God can love and had loved," the tufts of grass would want to follow that king and be with him eternally. This is how people should live. (175-186, 1988.4.16)

You should know how to love nature and love people. You should know that those who cannot love people or love nature cannot love God. Because all things of creation are symbols of God and because people are beings of His substance, those who know how to love all things of creation and people will come to love God. (70-181, 1974.2.9)

You should always love nature. You should love nature and love people. You should love people of all five colors of the human race. Would God say, "Oh, I only like the white people"? Then everyone would have to wear only white clothes. All white people would have to wear only white clothes, and throw away all their colored clothes. Why would you wear black clothes or colored clothes? That would be a contradiction. (133-30, 1984.7.1)

We should feel that all creatures of God are objects of our love. We should be the people who can love even all the minute forms of life and be the people who can receive love from them. The same is true for our fellow human beings, as well as everything visible and invisible in heaven. When a bird calls "chirp, chirp, chirp" in the morning, instead of grumbling, "You pesky sparrow, why are you chirping when I am trying to sleep late?!" say, "Oh, thank you. You came to wake me up. Ha ha! You are telling me that an important guest is coming to see me." The outlook is different. That is a great thing. (112-219, 1981.4.12)